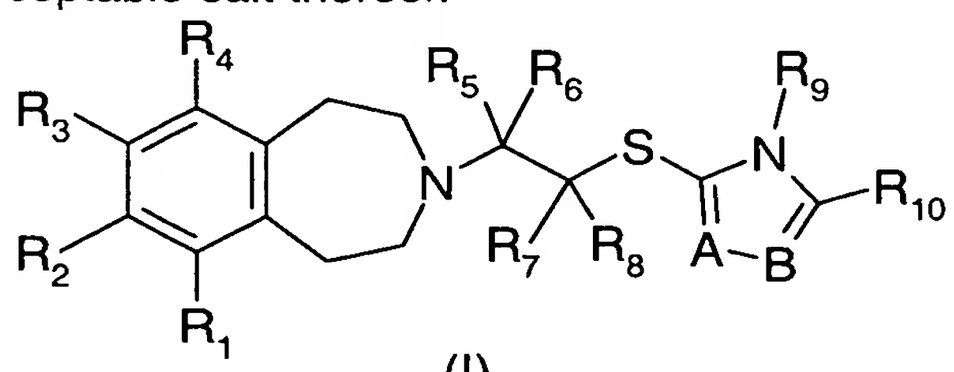
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to novel compounds of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

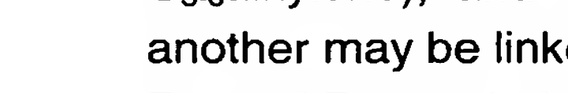


(I)

wherein

- R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, C_{1-2}alkyl, C_1alkoxy, haloC_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_1alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano and nitro;
- R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylthio, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonamido, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, heterocyclyl, aryl, arylC_{1-4}alkoxy, aryloxy, arylthio, arylmethyl, aroyl, aryloxymethyl, arylsulfonyl, aryl-NR'- (wherein R' is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl), arylsulfonyloxy, arylsulfonylC_{1-4}alkyl, arylsulfonamido, arylcarboxamido, arylsulfonamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, arylcarboxamidoC_{1-4}alkyl, aroylC_{1-4}alkyl, arylC_{1-4}alkanoyl, a group $R_{11}CON(R_{12})(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}R_{12}NCO(CH_2)r$ or $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2(CH_2)_r$ (in which r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and each of R_{11} and R_{12} is independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or in the groups $R_{11}CON(R_{12})(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}R_{12}NCO(CH_2)_r$ and $R_{11}R_{12}NSO_2(CH_2)_r$, $R_{11}CONR_{12}$ or $R_{11}R_{12}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms (including the carbon atoms contained in any optional substituent(s) of the azacycle)); wherein in any group containing an aryl moiety, the aryl may be substituted by one, two or three groups selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylenedioxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}dialkylamino, $R_{13}R_{14}NCO$ (in which R_{13} and R_{14} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or $R_{13}R_{14}N$ together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered azacyclic group optionally containing one additional O, N or S atom in the azacycle and having 3-8 carbon atoms (including the carbon atoms contained in any optional substituent(s) of the azacycle));

- A and B are independently N or CH;
- R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;
- R_{10} is a group of the formula (a) or (b):



(a) (b)

wherein:

- Z is C_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, phenyl, heterocyclyl, a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring or a 8- to 11-membered bicyclic group, any of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, haloC_{1-4}alkyl, haloC_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylenedioxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, haloC_{1-4}alkylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4}alkylthio, $R_{17}SO_2N(R_{18})$-, $R_{17}R_{18}NSO_2$-, $R_{17}R_{18}N$-, $R_{17}R_{18}NCO$-, $R_{17}CONR_{18}$- and a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring which is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2}alkyl, haloC_{1-2}alkyl or $R_{17}R_{18}N$-(wherein R_{17} and R_{18} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or R_{17} and R_{18} together form C_{3-6}alkylene); and wherein substituents positioned *ortho* to one another may be linked to form a 5- or 6- membered ring; and
- R_{15} and R_{16} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl and t is 1, 2, 3 or 4, or -($CR_{15}R_{16}$)t- forms a C_{3-6}cycloalkylene linker;

processes for their preparation, intermediates used in these processes, pharmaceutical compositions containing them and their use in therapy, as modulators of dopamine D_3 receptors, e.g. as agents to treat various aspects drug dependency or as antipsychotic agents.